Met Office

Annual 2010

The following represents an assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during 2010 and how it compared with the averages for the period 1971 to 2000.

Prolonged periods with blocked weather patterns, and an associated absence of westerly airstreams, resulted in a year that was colder, drier and sunnier than average in most areas, particularly in the west.

2010 was the twelfth-coldest year in the 100-year series and the coldest since 1986. This resulted mainly from cold weather in January, February, late November and, especially, December - which was one of the coldest calendar months in the last 100 years. Only April and June saw any prolonged warm weather widely. Mean daily maximum temperatures were generally about 0.5 °C below the 1971-2000 average across the UK, whilst mean daily minima were some 1.0 °C below across the western half and 0.5 °C below further east. 2010 was the coldest year since 1919 in Scotland and Northern Ireland for mean minimum temperatures.

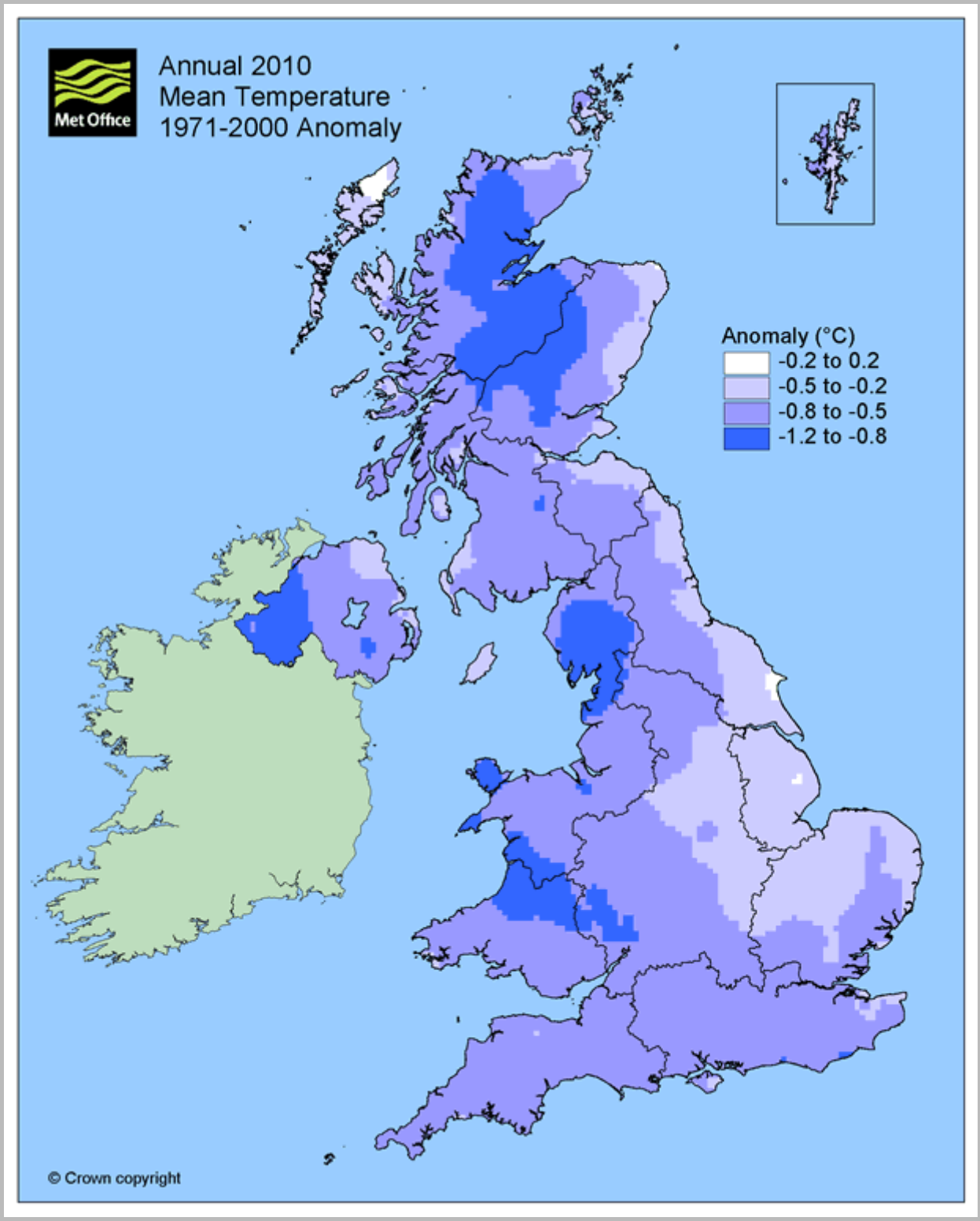
This was the eleventh-driest year in the series from 1910 and the driest since 2003. The period January to June was particularly dry, the driest such period since 1953 generally and since 1929 in north-west England and north Wales. However, rainfall deficits were reduced by a very wet July in the north and west followed by a very wet August in the south and east. The year both began and ended with widespread and disruptive snowfalls.

2010 was a sunny year across the UK, ranked twelfth-sunniest in a series from 1929. Over Northern Ireland and western Scotland it was amongst the sunniest years on record. UK sunshine totals were well above average in January, March, April, June, October and December. However, July and August were disappointingly dull and cool in most areas.

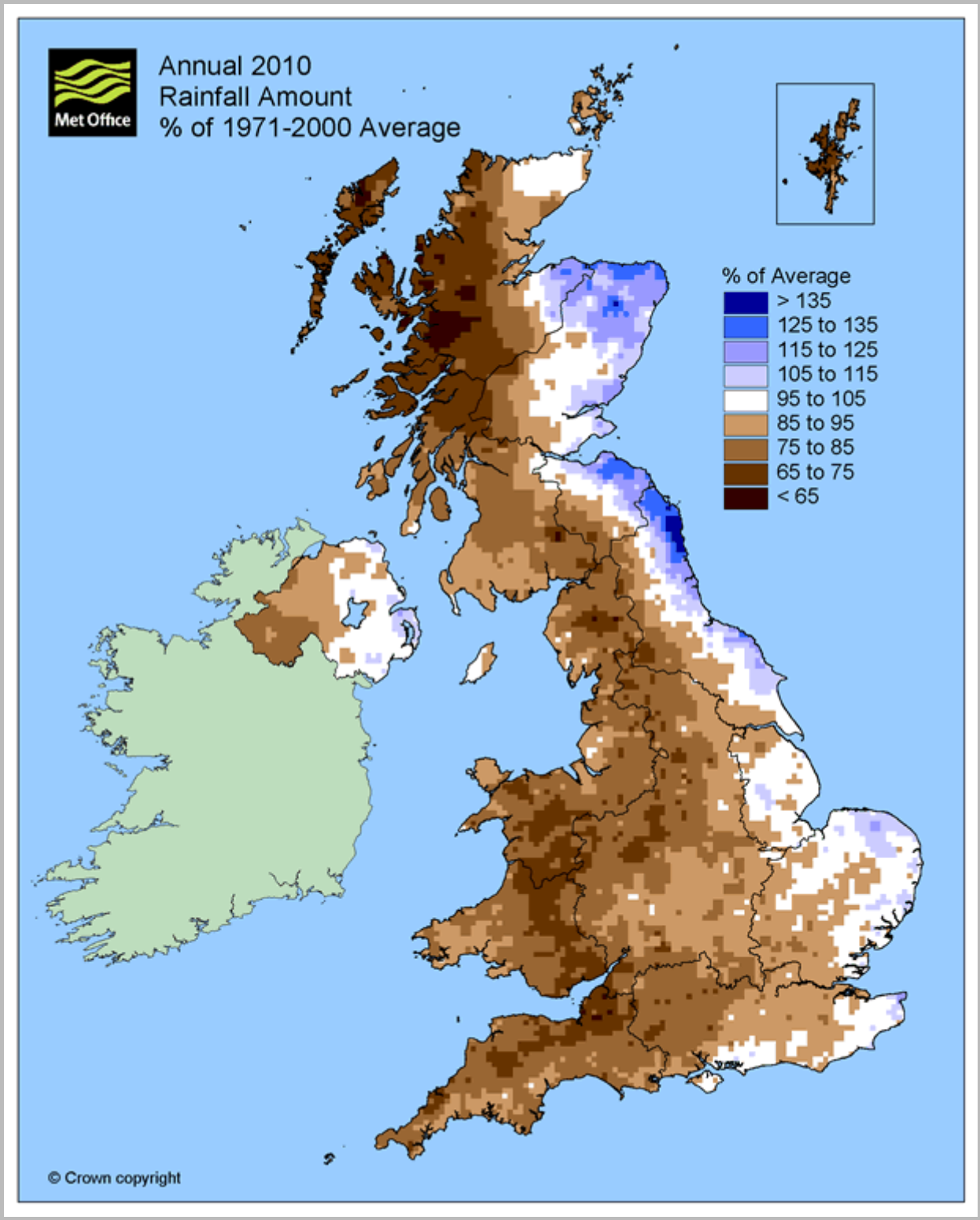
UK statistical summary

Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The mean value is 8.0 °C, which is 0.6 °C below the 1971-2000 average.	The total is 951 mm, which is 84% of the 1971-2000 average.	The total is 1456 hours, which is 107% of the 1971-2000 average.

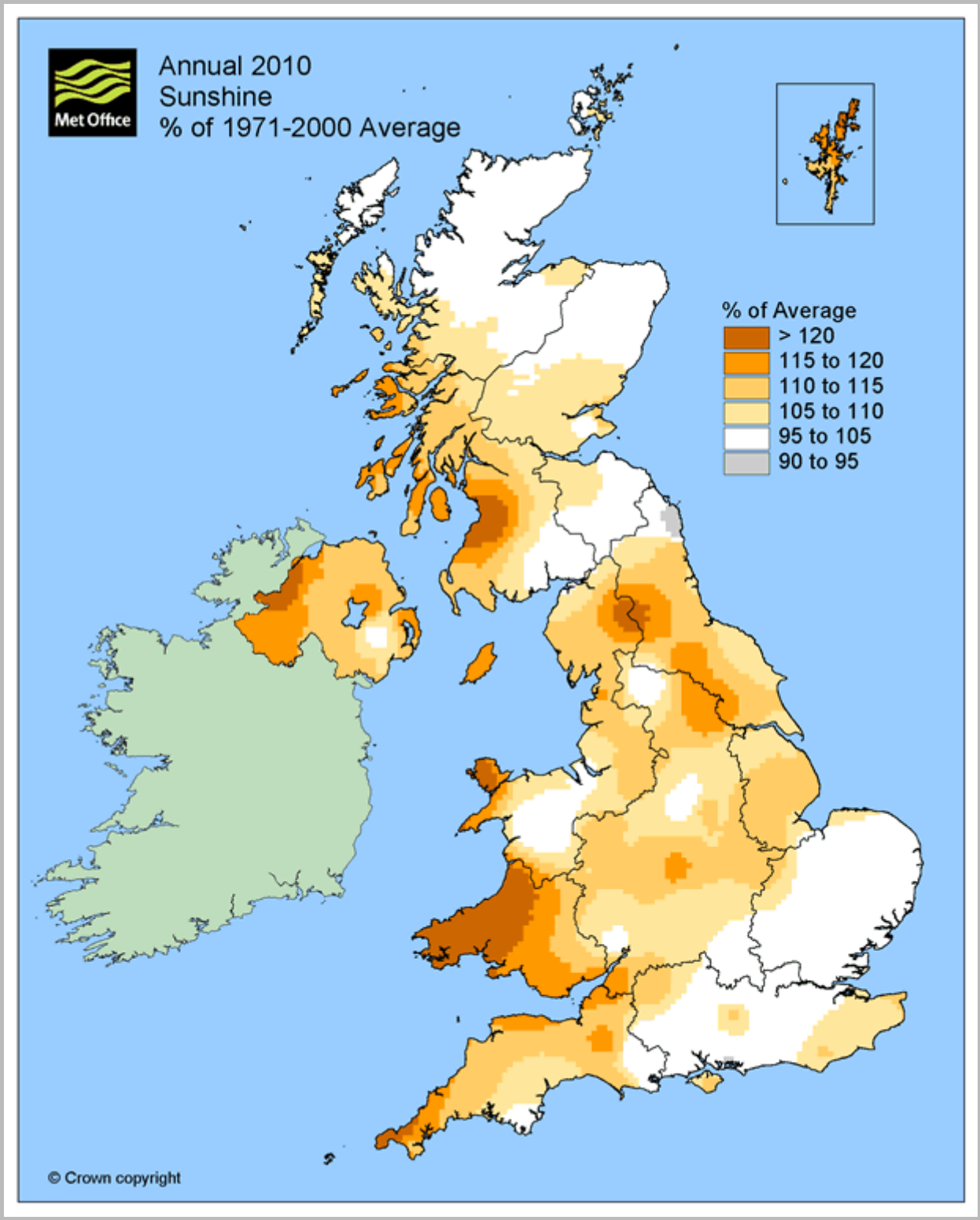
Mean temperature anomaly (difference from average) map for the year 2010



Mean rainfall percent of average map for the year 2010



Sunshine percent of average map for the year 2010



Last updated: 9 April 2013

Met Office